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ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE WASHINGTON MEETING

By GEORGE GRANT MAC CURDY

The affiliation of the newly founded American Anthropological Association and the American Folk-lore Society with Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has resulted in the unification of all anthropological interests strictly national in scope. The union of these forces was reflected in the joint program for the closing day of the recent Washington meeting, after one day had been devoted to each of the three separate societies.

Three of the special committees of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are chosen from among the anthropologists. The Committee on the Teaching of Anthropology in America submitted a report to the Council which will be printed later. There is no record of any report from the Committee on the Protection and Preservation of Objects of Archeological Interest. The Council adopted the report of the Committee on Anthropometric Measurements, which is as follows :

This committee begs to report that anthropometric researches have been continued at Columbia University under the direction of its New York members and with the coöperation of Professor Farrand, Professor Thorndike, Dr Wissler, Mr Bair, Mr Davis, and Mr Miner. Tests have been made on the freshmen entering college, calculations have been carried out on measurements of school children, and new determinations of the mental traits of school children have been made and correlated. The chairman of the committee has carried forward an extensive anthropometric study of American men of science, the preliminary results of which formed the subject of his address as president of the American Society of Naturalists. An anthropometric laboratory has been arranged at the present meeting of the association, with the \$50 appropriated at the Pittsburg meeting for the purpose, and tests of the physical and mental traits of members are being made. We ask that this committee be continued and

that a further appropriation of \$50 be made in order that a similar laboratory may be arranged at the next meeting of the association.

J. McK. CATTELL,

W J MCGEE,

FRANZ BOAS.

The scientific proceedings began with the address of the retiring Vice-President, Mr Stewart Culin, on "New World Contributions to Old World Culture." Mr Culin dealt particularly with the evidence he has accumulated from a thorough study of games as played by various peoples. His intimate knowledge of the subject lends great weight to his conclusions, one of these being that the southwestern portion of the United States was a center to which may be traced the origin of game-customs and paraphernalia now found in regions remote from that common center.

A paper from Dr A. L. Kroeber on "Tribal and Social Organization of the Indians of California," and one from W. W. Tooker on "Algonquian Names of Mountains and Hills" were both read by title, the authors being absent.

Dr W J McGee, the representative for the United States on the International Archeological (and Ethnological) Commission, described the steps which have been taken toward forming the Commission. He said, in part, that at the International Conference (commonly known as the Pan-American Congress) held in Mexico during the winter of 1901-02, a proposal to inaugurate joint action by the several American countries relating to the antiquities of the western hemisphere received consideration; and, after due discussion, the Conference agreed to recommend formally to the several countries participating that an International Archeologic Commission be established on a basis similar to that of the Bureau of American Republics; the Commission to be especially charged with the unification of laws relating to American antiquities, with the diffusion of knowledge concerning these antiquities, and, if practicable, with the establishment of an International Archeological Museum. The first country to take action pursuant to the recommendation was Mexico; President Diaz named Dr Alfredo Chavero as his official representative in making preliminary inquiries as to the feasibility of the plan. Dr Chavero conferred with archeologists and others

interested in the matter in Mexico, and also in Washington and elsewhere; and on his recommendation the Mexican Ambassador at Washington, His Excellency Don Manuel de Aspiroz, was made the official representative of the Mexican Republic for the purpose of organizing the Commission; soon afterward the speaker was designated, through the Secretary of State, as a similar representative on the part of the United States. The diplomatic representatives of several other American Republics have taken active interest in the plan, and the indications are that their respective countries will act favorably on the recommendation and participate in the organization of the Commission.

Under the title "Military Insignia of the Omaha," Miss Alice C. Fletcher described the two classes of warfare carried on by this tribe — aggressive war, which is in the direction of men; and defensive war, that which is in the direction of women or the tent. The war parties were also of two classes, one having for its object the securing of spoils, and the other, revenge, the latter ranking higher. All parties, whether of a few warriors or a hundred, had a leader who in turn appointed some to serve as hunters for the band; some as moccasin-carriers; others as kettle-carriers; and still others as fire-makers and water-carriers. The awarding of the six grades of war honors took place only within the sacred tent of war, each having its own peculiar insignia, and represented a warrior's act which had been recognized by the supernatural powers and awarded in the sacred tent. The eagle-feather war-bonnet was manufactured by the warriors of the tribe, with ceremony and song, and a war honor was counted upon each of the feathers, so the completed headdress represented the warriors of the tribe who had consented to bestow this mark of distinction upon a fellow tribesman. No regalia was worn in actual battle.

That "Sheet Copper from the Mounds is not Necessarily of European Origin" was the theme of a paper by Clarence B. Moore, which, with the discussion that followed, together with a paper on a kindred subject by Mr Warren K. Moorehead, appears in this issue of the *American Anthropologist*.

Prof. E. L. Hewett read two papers, one of which, "The Extinction of the Pecos Indians," is an account of the writer's attempt

to find all the surviving members of that tribe. Not one of those who settled at Santo Domingo and Sia is left. At Jemez there is but one survivor, Agustin Pecos, and it is from him that information was obtained concerning the language, customs, folklore, and religion of his tribe. There are other descendants of mixed blood.

Professor Hewett's other paper, a "Comparative Study of Mortuary Pottery from Pajarito Park and Tewa" was thoroughly illustrated by numerous drawings in black and water-colors. The pottery taken from the cliff ruins of Pajarito park was compared with that made by the Tewa Indians of Rio Grande valley, especially as regards design and form.

"Economic Anthropology" was the subject chosen by Prof. Lindley M. Keasbey. He said, in part, that in the domain of physical anthropology good results have been obtained. By applying the biological principles of variability and variation, anthropologists have succeeded in elaborating a fairly good account of the origin, dispersion, and differentiation of the human species; but in the domain of cultural anthropology confusion still prevails, owing to the fact that no principle of continuity has been applied to the cultural activities of primitive people. The economic activities of man are necessarily antecedent to his cultural activities—true, man does not live by bread alone, but unless man labors for his daily bread he is not able to live. Therefore, anthropologists should begin their inquiries by studying the economic activities of primitive peoples. By applying the economic principles of utility and utilization, the anthropologist should be able to establish the first stages of industrial development and determine the essential characteristics of primitive culture.

Prof. W. H. Holmes presented a valuable paper on "The Fossil Human Remains Found Near Lansing, Kansas," which was published in the last number of this journal. Professor Holmes' second communication was a presentation of "Incrusted Crania from Caves in Calaveras County, California."

The result of "The Excavations of the Gartner Mounds" was given by Mr W. C. Mills. In one of these famous Ohio mounds many graves were scattered throughout the whole mound, about one-third being placed below the base of the mound at varying depths, up to

five feet. The base of one covered an old village site and was of tamped clay, with a layer of ashes over the clay; the burials in this one were few, and were three and a half feet above the clay base. Many artifacts, including pottery or materials for making pottery, were buried with the body.

"The Cultural Differentiation of the Maidu," by Dr Roland B. Dixon, came as a sequence to his earlier studies relating to the art of basketry among the various Indian tribes of northern California. He called attention to the rather interesting case of the differentiation of a small Maidu stock into three more or less distinct groups, each of which, to a considerable extent, was isolated from the others. It was suggested that we might see in this differentiation in culture, as well as language, in this single stock, evidence of the forces which have produced the great diversity which has long been recognized to exist in California as a whole.

A paper by Mr E. Lindsey on "Anthropometry, its Relation to Criminology," dwelt on the outward physical characteristics of men to which quantitative methods are applicable. The relations exhibited by these methods are the mathematical ones connecting the observations, and not the real relations of the phenomena themselves. These methods applied to the study of criminals united with the view of the criminal mainly as a moral offender developed by the philanthropists, gave rise to the theories of the so-called Italian school of criminology. This is susceptible of much criticism. To deduce any theory, observations on the convict class must be compared with observations on all other classes of society. Convicts must be compared with non-convicts of similar environment. Anthropometry must provide these data. While there is a correlation between psychical activity and physical structure, the physical is no measure of the psychical function, which can be compared only qualitatively. Criminology, therefore, must embrace both qualitative and quantitative studies; it has no direct relation to criminal law, but should be pursued as a strictly scientific investigation, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

"The Introduction of the Banana into Prehistoric America" was the subject treated by Dr O. F. Cook. He has found evidence of wide distribution of the plant in pre-Spanish America, though it

was probably introduced from the tropical Pacific islands with which, it is claimed, there are indications of prehistoric communication.

H. Newell Wardle found material for "A Study of Spindle-whorls from Mexico to Colombia" in the U. S. National Museum, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the Free Museum of Science and Art of the University of Pennsylvania, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The distribution and significance of ornamental motifs were briefly considered, but the groups outlined were on the basis of technique, form, and material. Eight groups were recognized for Mexico, and after reference to the spindle-whorls of Chiriqui, attention was called to three strongly characterized types from Colombia, hitherto undescribed.

In a communication of unusual general interest entitled "Origin of Surnames," Dr Anita Newcomb McGee grouped personal names as class names and individual names, corresponding in present usage to forenames and surnames. Brief descriptions of forms of names among primitive and early peoples were given, with a statement of the causes which led to the general use of the class designation as a surname. Greece, Rome, England, Scotland, and Ireland were especially considered, and it was suggested that surnames were probably the same as, or derived from, the old clan names, brought into constant use by the demands of civilization. Anthropologists were asked to record the forms of personal names used by primitive peoples, because they are an expression of the grade of culture which has been attained.

Taking for his subject "Recent Investigations among the Pawnee," Dr George A. Dorsey described one of the rites of an extensive ceremony in connection with a sacred bundle among the Skidi band of the Pawnee which is dedicated to the evening star, the "mother" of the Pawnee tribe. This rite consisted of an offering, to the various gods, of the heart and tongue of the buffalo. An interesting feature brought out in this presentation was that the fire-place made in the tipi during the ceremony is rectangular, and not round, the former being supposed to be the shape of that garden in the west presided over by the evening star, and in which the heat of the sun is periodically renewed.

Conventionalism in primitive art has been treated by many able writers both in Europe and America. In this connection, the work of Prof. Franz Boas is well known. His latest contribution, "Conventionalism in American Art," was read at the Washington meeting. The speaker pointed out that almost all primitive art is symbolic in character, and that even simple geometrical forms are interpreted as having definite meaning. He stated that two explanations are possible — the one in which the designs are considered as conventionalized, realistic forms; the other in which the interpretation is considered as "seeing into the design." The former theory has been a prevalent one for a number of years. On the whole, the tendency to conventionalism is much more strongly developed in purely decorative objects than in ceremonial objects, which tend to be more pictographic in character. By following up the interpretation and form of design among the prairie Indians, it was shown that the areas of style and of interpretation do not coincide; that often in neighboring regions the same design is given a different interpretation; and that, on the other hand, the same idea among neighboring tribes is often expressed by different symbols. This the speaker held to be a proof that the interpretation is not the real explanation of the design, that the design may often be borrowed bodily from neighboring tribes, and that the explanation is fitted to the design. He also pointed out the relationship between the angular painted designs found among the Indians of the plains and those of the Pueblos and even of the ancient Mexicans.

An account of "Progress in Anthropology at Peabody Museum of Yale University" was given by George Grant MacCurdy, and is published in the present issue of this journal.

Instruments for recording speech have been much improved within recent years. Prof. E. W. Scripture, who has made a special study of phonetics, described "The Use of the Gramophone Method for Preserving and Studying Speech." Hitherto the greatest difficulty has been to obtain a lasting record, but this is now accomplished by the new gramophone. A copper mold is made by electroplating, the speech-line being in relief. This is faced with nickel to protect it. A shellac composition is pressed upon the mold with a force of 60,000 to 80,000 lbs., and when the disk is removed it is

a true copy of the original. This is the ordinary commercial gramophone plate. A single matrix may produce 2500 records before the wear is sufficient to interfere with efficiency. The speech-curve, greatly enlarged, may conveniently be traced from such plates. From these curves it is possible to determine most accurately the melody of the voice in speech and song. The importance of making phonetic surveys was clearly set forth. Dialects change and vanish; whole tribes disappear. To furnish an example we need only refer to the paper by Professor Hewett on the "Extinction of the Pecos Indians." Plans are now being matured for an extensive phonetic survey to begin the coming summer.

Mr George F. Kunz presented "Remarks on the Heber R. Bishop Jade Collection," which have been extended and are published elsewhere in this number.

Dr Roland Steiner contributed a paper on "Funeral Ceremonies among the Negroes of Georgia." These people have a custom of putting little pieces of broken plates on the graves of their deceased relatives or friends. An old negro told the speaker that it was to propitiate an evil spirit that came over from Africa with the first negroes who landed in this country. When a negro dies, all the relatives and friends assemble at his house, and messengers are sent to announce the death to the remotest kin. They all assemble at the house that night, where supper is prepared, and keep a vigil over the dead with alternate psalms and prayers. The grave is dug and all twigs that are used in measuring are placed therein. At the grave the coffin is opened in order that those present may view the remains. When the body is deposited in the grave; a "holy circle" is formed, and a dance, accompanied by singing and praying, is performed, sometimes for an hour. Then the minister officiates, but this part of the service does not last very long. The tools used in digging the grave are placed upon it, to remain until the dew has fallen on them — generally over night.

Of Dr Frank Russell's two papers, "Pima Annals" and "Some Practical Problems for the Consideration of American Anthropologists," the former appears elsewhere in this journal, while the latter will be published in the May number of *Education*.